

in force prior to the said year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five to take such proofs, privy examinations and acknowledgments, and the said instrument has been registered in the proper county without the certificate of the Governor of the state or territory in which such proofs, acknowledgments or privy examinations were taken, or of the Secretary of State of the United States, when such certificate or certificates were required, as to the official character of the person taking such acknowledgment, proof or privy examination, as aforesaid, and without an order of registration made by a court or judge in this State having jurisdiction to make such order, then and in all such cases such proofs, privy examinations, acknowledgments and registrations are hereby in all respects fully validated and confirmed and declared to be sufficient in law, and such instruments so registered may be read in evidence in any of the courts of this State.

Certificates as to power of probate officer.

Lack of order for registration. Probates and registration validated.

Instruments read in evidence.

SEC. 3. That this act shall not apply to any pending suits or affect any vested rights.

Pending suits and vested rights.

SEC. 4. This act shall be enforced from and after its ratification.

Ratified this the 6th day of March, A. D. 1923.

CHAPTER 216

AN ACT TO RELIEVE CONGESTION IN COURT DOCKETS AND TO PROVIDE NEEDED FACILITIES FOR SPEEDY TRIAL OF CAUSES AND TO ESTABLISH GENERAL COUNTY COURTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. *General county courts—court of record.*

In each county of this State there may be established a court of civil and criminal jurisdiction, which shall be a court of record and which shall be maintained pursuant to this act, and which court shall be called the General County Court and shall have jurisdiction over the entire county in which said court may be established.

Establishment authorized.

Official entitlement. Jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. *Presiding officer—election.*

That the court shall be presided over by the judge, who may be a licensed attorney at law, and at the time of his election he shall be a qualified elector in the county. The first judge of the court upon the establishment of said court shall be elected by the board of county commissioners within thirty days after the establishment of said court, and he shall hold his office until January first, following the next general election of county

Judge.

First election.

Term of office.